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Vertex Radio Communications, the land mobile division of Yaesu, has been at the forefront of high-tech engineering and quality manufacturing for over 40 years. Always keeping customer satisfaction as their goal, the Vertex line meets the ever-growing demands of private sector, public safety, and governmental organizations.

The Vertex full line of wireless radio equipment is compatible with commercial specifications worldwide, and includes a wide variety of portable, compact/mobile base stations, HF/SSB transceivers,

repeaters, and trunking systems.

Incorporating constant customer feedback with break-through design in synthesized radio communication technology has resulted in innovative products like the FTH-2070 32 Channel 5W Dual Band VHF/UHF Portable radio introduced in 1988. This unequaled radio gained immediate acceptance for its ability to link public safety organizations in time of crisis, and remains unique to Vertex today.

Now, with its expanded lineincluding the ultra-compact VX-10, 40 and 102 Channel VHF/UHF Portables -- Vertex Radio Communications provides solutions to communication needs for business, industry, and public safety.

For more information about the complete line of Vertex Radio Communications products, see your authorized Vertex dealer, or call:

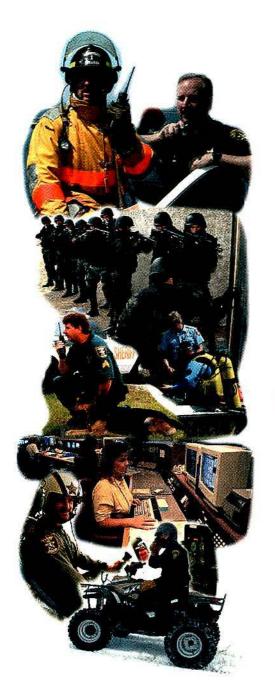
562-404-2700





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# E.F. Johnson sends a clear signal about Project 25.



Our position is clear: Nobody knows better how public safety communications should work than the people who use it. These dedicated professionals have spent nearly a decade shaping their vision of how public safety communications will work in the future—the APCO-initiated Project 25 suite of standards. E.F. Johnson respects and applauds their efforts.

Our commitment is firm: E.F. Johnson Company is redoubling its commitment to Project 25. We were an original signatory to the Project 25 process. We were one of the first manufacturers to publicly demonstrate P25 Common Air Interface products. We're already the #2 manufacturer of Project 25 conventional products. And now, E.F. Johnson:

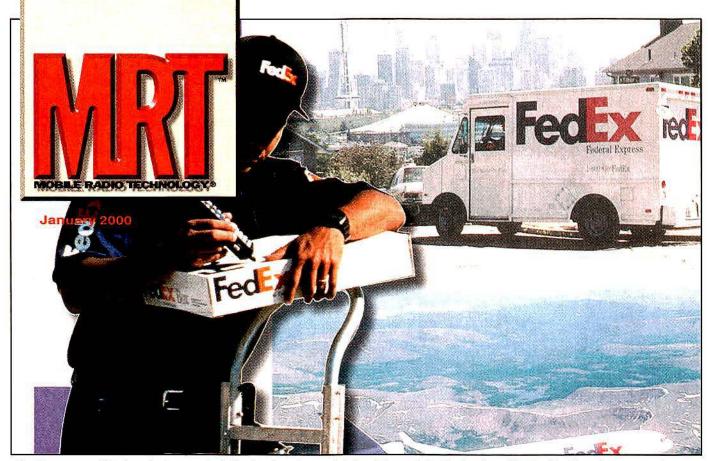
- Has just released System 3 trunking radios with 9600 bps P25 CAI.
- Will roll out additional Project 25 trunking terminals and infrastructure products.
- Supports Project 25 for the new 700 MHz band.

It's your choice: This is not the time for quick fixes or wireless technology that's unfamiliar and unproven in U.S. public safety applications. Public safety communications provide a lifeline that thousands of law enforcement officers, firefighters, and paramedics depend on every day.

The Project 25 standards are *your* standards, developed by you and your APCO colleagues. E.F. Johnson stands with you, remaining firmly committed to the goal of interoperable public safety communications across the U.S.—the goal of Project 25.



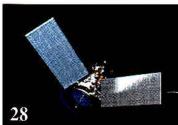
299 Johnson Avenue, Waseca, MN 56093 1-800-621-2945



On the cover: Private wireless radio infrastructure is crucial to delivery industry leaders like FedEx. See the cover story on page 20. Cover design by Scott Dolash, art director. Photographs courtesy of FedEx, Memphis, TN.

#### FEATURES







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Thomas G. Dolan

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24 Predicting radio channel capacity Stephen E. Bartlett, B.S., M.S. Capacity of a conventional twoway radio channel can be predicted using a voice message analogy similar to a data packet.

#### 28 Satellite communications for public safety

Tom D. Soumas Jr. and Dave Robertson

A southern application of satellite communications to rural emergency medical services communications desmonstrates the advantages "skyrepeaters" offer to rural areas.

2 Product/services showcase Advertisers in this issue provide information on products and services.

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101-68-10-X-01	10 dBd ±0.5 dB	450-512 MHz	62 MHz	10°	1000 watts	7/16 DIN
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ONE MODEL COVERS ENTIRE 450-512 MHZ BAND!

> TX RX Systems Inc. 8625 Industrial Pkwy. Angola, NY 14006 Ph: 716-549-4700 Fax: 716-549-4772 Email: sales@txrx.com Web Site: www.txrx.com





A member of Bird Technologies Group

"X" = downtilt = 0, 3, 6 (degrees)

#### EDITORIAL

## Millennium team

The technical supervisor for the Lenexa, KS, police department, **Dave Dunford**, becomes our public safety consultant and "10-2" columnist beginning with this issue. Dave also will serve as moderator for sessions in the public safety track at the March 22–24 International Wireless Communications Expo (IWCE).

I think Dave is a genius. Now, it's up to him to prove it to you.

(Does that give you anything to live up to, Dave?)

I became acquainted with Dave several years ago. His perspective on public safety communications and technology is refreshing and spot on.

Plus, he's one of these people who impress me with their hands-on electronics wizardry, such as **Harold Kinley** of the South Carolina Forestry Commission; **Bruce Marcus** of Marcus Communications & Electronics, **Don Koehler** of Communication Specialties; **Pat Buller** of Washington State Patrol; and **Bob Wiles** of Sunflower Radio Products.

Harold, we're happy to say, returns to a monthly schedule of "Technically Speaking" columns this year. And he's working on his third book. We were glad to have your column every other month in 1999, Harold, and we'll be twice as glad this year.

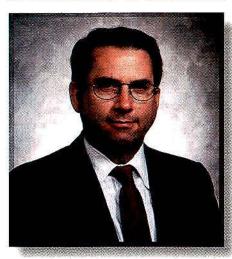
Bruce returns to IWCE with "Applying Marcus Magic to Site RF Design and Interference Issues Beyond Y2K." Mark your IWCE program with a "must see" for Bruce's session.

Don has been one of our more prolific contributing feature writers beginning way back in the '90s. (Remember the '90s?) Take advantage of the opportunity to meet Don, too, at IWCE. He'll be the moderator for sessions in the technology track. And I know he would welcome ideas for future technical articles that will help you in your business and your shop.

Pat steps up with technical articles, too, that have included some highly practical use-what-you-have and build-what-you-don't features that are popular with agencies that don't have much money to spend on new equipment. Pat will moderate sessions in the IWCE public safety track, so be sure to meet him while you're there.

Bob spends most of his time behind the scenes, though he once graced our cover. He's the hired intellect behind product designs that non-disclosure agreements keep him from talking about.

**Jack Daniel,** once MRT's west coast editor (remember when, Jack?), now an editorial adviser, takes to the dais at IWCE as moderator for sessions in the



regulatory track. Among his other talents, Jack is a master of specialty projects. He toils in the communications cauldron of Los Angeles where most ordinary radio systems have long since become impossible to configure because of spectrum shortage, geography, regulations or all three. That doesn't stop Jack. He's too creative and resourceful for that.

Bob Shapiro, another of our advisers, comes to the foreground at IWCE as the moderator of technology track sessions. We met him years ago through his work at an antenna manufacturer, though in recent years he has become known for his work with sites, networks and project management.

Although he spends most of his time with *RF Design* magazine these days, **Ernest Worthman**, technology editor, has a long involvement with IWCE dating from his time with *Communications* magazine. He will moderate sessions in the regulatory track.

Shouldering the conference organization duties again this year, **Jerry Whitaker**, program chairman, hosts "Industry Leaders Meet the Press" and sessions in the technology track.

#### IWCE opening session

The association between IWCE and MRT is so close that, when IWCE time is near, talking about one means talking about the other.

Robert H. Schwaninger Jr.'s "In the Public Interest" columns continue; in fact, it would be hard to imagine MRT without him as our regulatory consultant and columnist.

Robert will speak at IWCE's opening session, bringing his perspective as a telecommunications attorney, trade association official and businessman. What he won't bring is a rubber chicken. (He brought it last year. Few IWCE speakers have worked a rubber chicken into their presentation. Only Robert, come to think of it.)

Robert's column debuted seven years ago. Then, he was a maverick whose approach to law practice (put clients first; sue the government when necessary) made other telecommunications attorneys with a "go-along-to-get-along" attitude toward the government think was crazy, if not dangerous. Some told us we were crazy to publish him. Now, he's in demand as a writer, speaker and attorney. Many of his former critics have embraced his forthright approach. He'll tell it like it is, and you oughta be there to hear it.

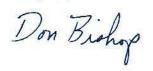
Stephan Beckert not only makes his first IWCE appearance as a speaker at the opening session, he joins us as our newest editorial adviser. Stephan is director of dispatch and mobile data for the Strategis Group, which offers the most comprehensive market study and analysis of private radio of any research company. What's ahead for the industry? Responses gathered from the industry itself point the way.

#### Thanks

As we enter the new year, we want to thank our customers, contributors, advisers and co-workers who make the magazine possible.

Thank you, too, for reading. Visit us at www.mrtmag.com. Don't forget to tip your editors. And try the rubber chicken. We'll be here all year.

don\_bishop@intertec.com









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MODEL SS-12IF

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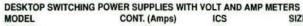
MODEL SS-18

<b>DESKTOP SWITC</b>	HING POWER SUPPLIES			
MODEL	CONT. (Amps)	ICS	SIZE (inches)	Wt.(lbs.)
SS-10	7	10	1% x 6 x 9	3.2
SS-12	10	12	1% x 6 x 9	3.4
SS-18	15	18	1% x 6 x 9	3.6
SS-25	20	25	21/2 x 7 x 91/4	4.2
55.30	25	30	3% x 7 x 0%	5.0



MODEL SS-25M

OU LU			E (8 A / A W/8	7.0
SS-30	25	30	3% x 7 x 9%	5.



CONT. (Amps)	105	SIZE (inches)	WE.(IDS.)
20	25	21/4 x 7 x 91/4	4.2
25	30	3½ x 7 x 9%	5.0
	20	20 25	20 25 2½ x 7 x 9½



MODEL SRM-30

RACKMOUNT SWIT	TCHING POWER SUPPLIES			
MODEL	CONT. (Amps)	ICS	SIZE (inches)	Wt.(lbs.)
SRM-25	20	25	3½ x 19 x 9%	6.5
SRM-30	25	30	3½ x 19 x 9%	7.0

#### WITH CEDADATE VOLT & AND METEDS

WITH SEPARATE A	ULI & AMP METERS			
MODEL	CONT. (Amps)	ICS	SIZE (inches)	Wt.(lbs.)
SRM-25	20	25	3½ x 19 x 9½	6.5
SRM-30	25	30	3½ x 19 x 9%	7.0



MODEL SRM-30M-2

#### 2 ea SWITCHING POWER SUPPLIES ON ONE RACK PANEL Wt.(lbs.) MODEL CONT. (Amps) ICS SIZE (inches) SRM-25A-2 25 3% x 19 x 9% 10.5 30 3% x 19 x 9% 11.0 SRM-30A-2

#### WITH SEPARATE VOLT & AMP METERS

MODEL	CONT. (Amps)	ICS	SIZE (inches)	Wt.(lbs.)
SRM-25M-2	20	25	31/2 x 19 x 91/4	10.5
SRM-30M-2	25	30	3% x 19 x 9%	11.0



MODEL SS-IDEFJ-98

#### CUSTOM POWER SUPPLIES FOR RADIOS BELOW

EF JOHNSON AVENGER GX-MC41 EF JOHNSON AVENGER GX-MC42 EF JOHNSON GT-ML81 **EF JOHNSON GT-ML83** EF JOHNSON 9800 SERIES GE MARC SERIES GE MONOGRAM SERIES & MAXON SM-4000 SERIES ICOM IC-F11020 & IC-F2020 KENWOOD TK760, 762, 840, 860, 940, 941

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UNIDEN SMH1525, SMU4525 VERTEX - FTL-1011, FT-1011, FT-2011, FT-7011

Circle (6) on Fast Fact Card

#### NEW SWITCHING MODELS

SS-10GX, SS-12GX

SS-18GX

SS-12EFJ

SS-18EFJ

SS-10-EFJ-98, SS-12-EFJ-98, SS-18-EFJ-98

SS-12MC

SS-10MG, SS-12MG

SS-101F, SS-121F

SS-10TK

SS-12TK OR SS-18TK

SS-10SM/GTX

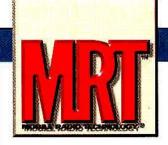
SS-10SM/GTX, SS-12SM/GTX, SS-18SM/GTX

SS-10RA

SS-12RA SS-18RA

SS-10SMU, SS-12SMU, SS-18SMU

SS-10V, SS-12V, SS-18V



#### NEXT MONTH-FEBRUARY 2000

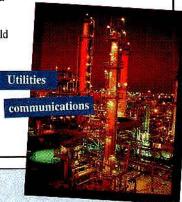
FEATURES: Towers; Wireless@Work: utilities communications; what's new in connectors; digital signal processing.

PLUS: Robert H. Schwaninger Jr.'s "In the Public Interest"; Harold Kinley's "Technically Speaking"; David Dunford's "Public safety: 10-2"; editorial commentary from Don Bishop and David Keckler.



#### AND IN THE MONTHS TO COME:

SCADA; portable batteries; VHF highband; surge protectors; 800MHz conventional systems; base station antennas.



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Responds equally to all field polarizations	Guaranteed Max. ± 0.75 dB	Not Guaranteed Typical ± 2 dB
Accurate at all temperatures	Guaranteed	No
Immune to static	Guaranteed	No
RMS detection under all conditions	Guaranteed	No
Functions near power lines	Yes	No
LED Indicator visible when worn on body	Yes	No
Unit cost	\$	\$\$\$
2 Year factory calibration & checkup included*	Free (No calibration costs for 4 years)	\$
Calibration within 10 business days	Guaranteed (or calibration is Free)	No

\*Two-year recommended calibration cycle. No additional costs for four years with first two-year checkup and calibration included.

#### CALENDAR

#### 2000

#### January

6-9: International CES, sponsored by the Consumer Electronics Manufacturers' Association; Sands Expo Center, Las Vegas Hilton and Alexis Park; Las Vegas. Contact: 703-907-7605 or Web site www.CESweb.org.

#### **February**

15-18: APCO Gulf Coast Regional, sponsored by the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials—International, Corpus Christi Omni Bayfront, Corpus Christi, TX. Contact: Toni Dunne, 512-305-6918 or Web site www.apcointl.org.

**15–18:** NATE, sponsored by the National Association of Tower Erectors, San Diego. Contact: 888-882-5865 or Web site www.natehome.com.

28-March 1: Wireless, sponsored by the Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association, Ernest Morial Convention Center, New Orleans. Contact: 202-785-0081 or Web site www.wow-com.com.

#### March

6-8: APCO Western States Regional, sponsored by the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials-International, Doubletree Hotel Portland, Portland, OR. Contact: RoxAnn Brown, 503-690-4911 ext. 206 or Web site www.apcointl.org.

**19–22: ENTELEC,** sponsored by ENTELEC, Dallas Convention Center, Dallas. Contact: 281-357-8700 or Web site www.entelec.org.

22–24: International Wireless Communications Expo. co-sponsored by *Mobile Radio Technology*. Las Vegas Convention Center, Las Vegas, Contact: 800-288-8606.

#### April

10–12: APCO North Central Regional, sponsored by the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials–International, Holiday Inn, Worthington, OH. Contact: Jay Somerville, 614-761-6530 or Web site www.apcointl.org.

#### May

8-11: Telecommunications Resellers Association Spring Conference and Exposition, Philadelphia Marriott. Contact: 202-835-9898 or Web site www.tra.org.

15-18: Spring Vehicular Technology Conference, sponsored by IEEE Vehicular Technology Society, Hotel Pacific Tokyo, Tokyo. Contact: 81-468-40-3552 or email matumoto@mars.yrp.nttdocomo.co.jp.

17-19: Site Owners & Managers Alliance (SOMA) Conference, sponsored by the Personal Communications Industry Association, Kansas City, MO. Web site www.pcia.com.

**30–June 1: Canadian Wireless**, sponsored by the Canadian Wireless Telecommunications Association, Toronto. Contact: 613-233-4888, ext. 102. or Web site www.cwta.ca.

#### June

4–8: Supercomm, sponsored by TIA and USTA. Georgia World Congress Center. Atlanta. Contact: 800-278-7372.

12–13: AMTA Leadership Conference and Annual Meeting, sponsored by the American Mobile Telecommunications Association, Sheraton Suites, Alexandria, VA. Contact: 202-331-7773 or

Web site www.amtausa.org.

25-29: UTC Telecom, sponsored by UTC, The United Telecom Council, Phoenix, Contact: 202-857-1881 or Web site www.utc.org.

#### July

16–19: Forestry Conservation and Communications Association National Conference, Elms Resort & Spa, Excelsior Springs, MO. Contact: 573-751-4115, ext. 172.

#### August

13-17: Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials—International (APCO) National Conference, Boston. Contact: 904-322-2500 or Web site www.apcointl.org.

#### September

19–22: Fall Vehicular Technology Conference, sponsored by IEEE Vehicular Technology Society, Scaport Hotel, Boston. Contact: 904-322-2500. 26–29: Personal Communications Showcase, sponsored by PCIA, McCormick Place, Chicago. Contact: 703-739-0300 or www.pcs00.com.

#### November

12-15: Telecommunications Resellers Association Fall Conference and Exhibition, sponsored by TRA, Anaheim, CA. Contact: 202-835-9898 or Web site www.tra.org.

**13–14: AMTEX**, sponsored by the American Mobile Telecommunications Association, Ft. Lauderdale, FL. Contact: 202-331-7773 or Web site www.amtausa.org.

15-18: Communications Marketing Conference, sponsored by the Communication Marketing Association, Sheraton Colony Square, Atlanta. Contact: 404-892-2600, ext. 300 or Web site: www.commktga.com.

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Registration:

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Las Vegas Hilton

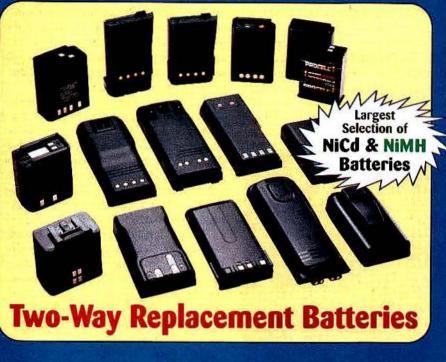
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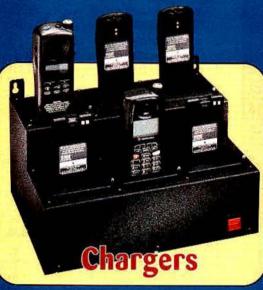
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#### EDITORIAL FORUM



# The day they took the radios away

"Bob's Trucking Company" (that's what I'll call it) used to run efficiently. There was no need for useless communications stops, yet a driver knew when his orders were added to or changed. Fuel costs were lower, and engines lasted longer. Then one day, dispatchers and truck drivers came into work to find that their radios were missing.

The company had slashed the radios out of the budget. The purchasing manager said they were too expensive. What was expensive, that is, was the service contract that had covered the radios. In fact, dispatchers and drivers said that the radios themselves had worked fine and had never required service, which would make the service contract seem like a waste of money. But the company threw out the baby with the bathwater.

Not all communications were lost. Drivers had pagers and could still stop at payphones or call at delivery stops, but a certain amount of efficiency was lost the day they took the radios away.

I learned about this situation when I asked a friend who worked as a dispatcher at Bob's what kind of radios they used. I got an earful that I didn't expect.

He said that a driver often will be out on a route, and a new order will come in for a pickup on that route. So the dispatcher will have to page the driver and then wait for him to get an update. And most likely, the driver has already passed that point on his route, so he will have to backtrack. "I just talked to him," is what is often heard around the office.

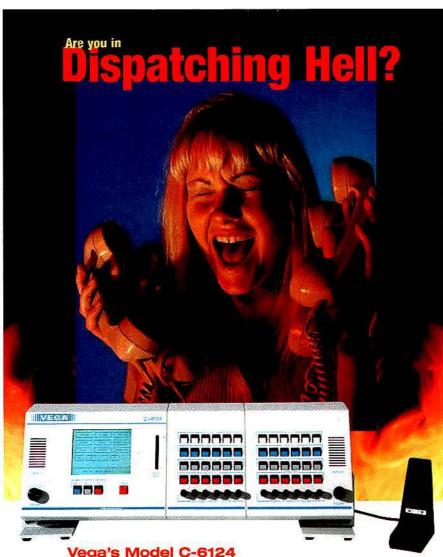
The phone calls, of course, increased "400%," according to the dispatcher, not to mention the wear and tear on trucks from more communications stops. Freeflowing voice (or data) communications between dispatcher and driver was no longer SOP for this company.

The moral of the story to end-users: Don't take your radios for granted.

To the dealers and service shops: Don't let your customers walk away. If a service contract is so expensive that a customer will completely cancel, try to deal with them. Every customer has specific needs, and you can provide the solutions, whether it's paging, or radios or mobile data terminals. Bob's might still have radios if the dealer had asked the right questions and maybe arranged a better contract that fit Bob's budget and needs.

Radio has always played an integral role in the trucking industry, from the CB radio to the mobiles and terminals of today. Mobile communications in the form of voice and data saves money and time, and in this day and age, it's hard to believe that a trucking company would take away radios completely if they had been serving needs. So many products are available to help trucking companies run smoothly. Take advantage of the technology to get ahead in the long-lasting transportation business.

> -Nikki Chandler nikki\_chandler@intertec.com



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#### PUBLIC INTEREST

# You say you wanta resolution?

By Robert H. Schwaninger Jr.

It's that time again for making promises. New Year's resolutions have become a staple of America, giving each of us a chance to atone for past sins by promising not to be a repeat offender.

With this tradition in mind, and my fingers crossed so tight that it will take the Jaws of Life to untangle my knuckles, here's a sample of the resolutions I've considered making for 2000.

#### My big mouth

I promise to keep using it whenever I can. You can't swing a dead cat in Washington without hitting the timid, the clueless, the over-heeled or the cautious. I attend presentations and seminars that are so boring that I recardio two quire paddles and 300 joules just to get my legs working-CLEAR! These flat-lined, flapjawed representatives of the industry talk around every subject, without getting to the key to every operator's success: a fair competitive environment.

Last October, Chris Rogers of Nextel spoke at the SBT National Conference in St. Louis. The room was full of local operators who

waited patiently for Chris to say what was really on his mind: "Why don't you guys just shut up and go away?" He didn't say that, of course. The villagers had the torches and farm implements ready to slay the monster if he had. But I'm not shutting up, and the local opera-

Schwaninger, MRT's regulatory consultant, is the principal in the law firm of Schwaninger & Associates, Washington, which is counsel to Small Business in Telecommunications. Schwaninger is also a member of the Radio Club of America.

tors ain't going away. So, I resolve to keep running my mouth. You resolve to keep running your shop.

#### Our big spectrum

At another recent association gathering, the boys from the FCC once again spoke those wondrous words that always



send chills up my spine and set my teeth on edge: "as the owners of the radio spectrum ...." Oh, puh-leeze. Don't they realize how stupid this sounds? Yet, they trot out this tired excuse for doing the least with the most.

One of my clients decided many years ago to try his hand at commodity trading. His foray into this theoretical world of pork bellies and sugar ended on a highly realistic note. When the dust settled, he owned several boxcars of potatoes. These were real potatoes sitting out in the real sun with millions of real eyes staring into his bankbook. Potatoes are real. Spectrum isn't.

I resolve to try to explain this to the FCC when the occasion arises and to do my part to direct the agency toward reality-also known as the path least taken. And if they don't listen, maybe I'll deliver a bucket of pork

bellies to each of the sage commissioners. That way they can get a whiff of what we smell every time they try to tell us that they "own" spectrum.

#### Big band managers

I resolve to question the use of "band managers" every step of the way. Just like John Lennon asked about Brian Epstein's cut of the Beatles' earnings, the players on the industry stage should ask whether they require the bookings of these managers. I'm trying to picture Mark Crosby looking through a pair of \$500 shades and saying, "Chickee-baby, I've got a gig on a sweet little patch of 20kHz in Montana you're gonna love. Trust me. It's a natural for ya. Bring the seals and Wanda. The locals like to see the cheesecake."

#### The big oops

In 1995 the FCC granted a bunch of SMR licenses using a computer program that was

allegedly designed to clean up the backlog of applications that had been pending for a few years. The grant of thousands of these licenses was in error. The applications, filed by the largest operator, were defective in the extreme and should not have even been included in the computer run. But, despite my repeated efforts, the FCC has yet to remedy this problem.

I resolve to find a remedy. The agency blew it, knows it blew it and



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would prefer to sweep it under the rug so far that a 5,000hp Hoover couldn't suck it out. Even the inspector general of the FCC threw his hands up so fast you would have thought it was a stickup. The Justice Department has punted on it. Congress is whistling and looking at the ceiling. Most of the frequency coordinators are acting like they are unaware of it. And the Government Accounting Office is still posturing. There was one decision on the matter-and it was so full of misrepresentations about the record you would have thought it was written by the Brothers Grimm—a

fairy tale of the worst order.

#### The big tug of war

Over the years I've found that it's easier to pull on just one side of the rope. You may not win, but at least you're a consistent jerk. So, I'm resolving to move to the front burner the issue of fundamental fairness between common carriers, demanding that local exchange carriers (LECs) give wireless operators reciprocal interconnection agreements. Although this has been law for a few years, the LECs are acting like Congress and the FCC didn't mean it. I

think the lawmakers did.

Finally, after prodding by many wireless operators, the FCC is taking the matter seriously. I've begun filing formal complaints against LECs that refuse to put a reciprocal agreement on the table. I'm tired of LECs telling paging operators, "We don't give facilities for free," as though this statement justifies charging paging companies for termination of an LEC's traffic. ("Earth to LECs.") One more time: You can't be a "supplier to all and a consumer of nothing." Those days are over.

#### The big show

It looks like I'll be speaking at the opening session of the IWCE show again this year. I did it last year without the benefit of coffee. (The hotel missed my wake-up call.) I like the show and

> You can't be a 'supplier to all and a consumer of nothing. Those days are over.

enjoy the bit of free reign IWCE gives me to speak my piece. So, this year, I resolve to speak with the benefit of caffeinated beverages. It may be a wireless show, but I'll be wired in March.

#### The big etc.

To try to atone for all my past sins in one year would be too much. I've been guilty of many transgressionsnot of least note is the sin of pride. My wife is always reminding me that I can't fix everything, can't know everything and can't be everywhere for everybody. She's right, of course. I'm just one loud-mouthed, dorsal-finned lawyer trying to make a buck the right way in Washington.

The scales of justice often have a political thumb pressing down hard on one side, and my railings are often unheard in the din of lobbyist voices, mumbling in back rooms throughout this town. My positions are about a level playing field that doesn't use big money as the only yardstick for integrity and the right to compete. But, darn it, I stand for something and in this day and age, that's something to be proud of. So, there I go again with the pride thing. But, as I've always said, if you've got an ego bigger than mine—seek professional help.

Happy New Year.

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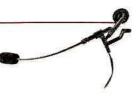
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## Setting up the basic dispatch center

An inexpensive and simple adapter for a Maxtrac radio allows a small agency to use a logging recorder.

By David O. Dunford

Larry Pratt knows everybody. Pratt is the volunteer fire chief in Kearney, MO, the birthplace of Jesse James (forerunner of the telecom attorney). Kearney, a small but rapidly growing community of less than 5,000 people, lies in the northern "exburbs" of Kansas City, MO. Pratt has been the volunteer chief for 25 years and has steadily and progressively updated the department's training, staffing, equipment—and communications. That's where I come in—Pratt knows me, too.

The Kearney Fire Department (KFD) was dispatching on-duty and callback responders with conventional two-tone sequential paging and using a desktop Zetron encoder slaved to the base station radio. Paging range was limited by tower height and transmit power. From the days of "separate service" frequency assignments, KFD shared one of the 28 VHF high-band fire frequencies (carrier squelch) with about five or six talkative neighbors, and the system needed improvement. KFD needed to expand paging range, improve wide-area portable radio operation, and minimize cochannel chatter interference.

To improve portable operation, Pratt and I devised a plan to overlay a single-

site repeater station and modify all the field equipment by adding a new, additional channel for repeater "talk-in" use. The plan was to curb annoyance chatter by adding CTCSS to user radios. System range would be enhanced by moving the repeater station to a new PCS tower in town where Pratt knew the owners and tenants. As is typical, Kearney's regularly used simplex channel remained as the repeater talk-out channel.

At KFD's comm center in the fire station, we replaced the "senior citizen" Regency desktop with two new, inexpensive Motorola Maxtracs—one for a control station and one for backup base operation. The control station, with reduced transmit power and slaved encoder, is dedicated to dispatch operation, and the multichannel base station, with spare encoder, is parked on the statewide fire mutual-aid channel (154.280MHz, simplex). Work on user radios was simplified because most of the equipment was field-programmable by computer.

Because KFD participates in the metropolitan Kansas City E9-1-1 system, it receives 9-1-1 calls as a secondary PSAP. The Clay County, MO, Sheriff's Department is the primary PSAP that provides initial call answer and then transfers requests for fire or rescue aid. MRT welcomes David 0. Dunford as a regular columnist in 2000.

Dunford, who started in police radio as a dispatcher more than 25 years ago, is the police department technical services manager for Lenexa, KS (pop. 40,000), supervising maintenance techs, repair facilities, telecom design, fleet radio operations and mobile installations. He consults with numerous agencies on VHF/UHF/800MHz systems. Dunford is a member of APCO and has served in frequency coordination.

For his new column, we decided the appropriate title would be the 10code "10-2"—clear communications.

Even for his small department, Pratt could see the need for operations voice logging. (Logging Rule No. 1: The actual time of day is far less important than the time relationship between actions and events of the center.)

During the transition to the new radio upgrade, an opportunity arose for Pratt to acquire a Seltronics logging recorder. After a service trial, KFD bought a model E-500, which is a small, 10-channel desktop unit that operates reliably and fits nicely in the corner of Kearney's dispatch center (fancy desk) pictured with Chief Pratt in Photo 1 below left.

To provide clean audio for recording from the phones, we picked off the handset receiver audio from the internal network on each telephone set. This simple and reliable method creates a nice audio balance between distant caller and dispatcher voice. It also records "all the lines" at this phone. (Important anti-embarrassment tip: ALL calls to/from the phone are recorded.)

We next addressed the problem of interfacing both sides of each radio conversation with the two-wire inputs on the recorder. We reviewed the literature (dug around in the Maxtrac book), and devised a strategy (scratched out a drawing) to use the radio's front-panel mic jack, because transmit and receive audio are both present there.

The schematic in Figure 1 above

Dunford, MRT's public safety consultant, is manager of technical services for the Lenexa, KS, police department. He is a member of the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials-International. You can email Dunford at mrt@intertec.com.

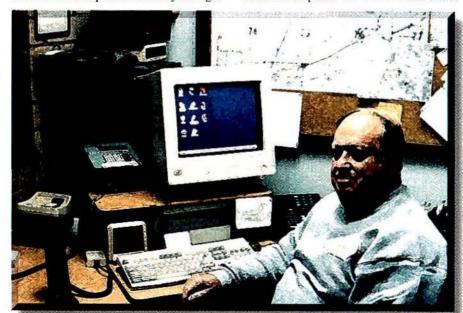


Photo 1. Small but efficient, the Kearney, MO, Fire Department Dispatch Center, supervised by Fire Chief Larry Pratt, is a one-desk operation.

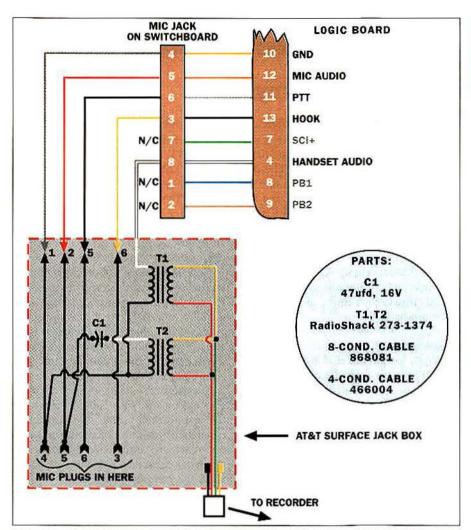


Figure 1. Wiring plan for modifying surface jack (shown in Photo 2 below) with signal components. Upper connections on the logic board (not shown) connect to the radio.

shows the wiring plan. The recorder output is bridged and isolated from separate transmit and receive audio paths and coupled together using two miniature

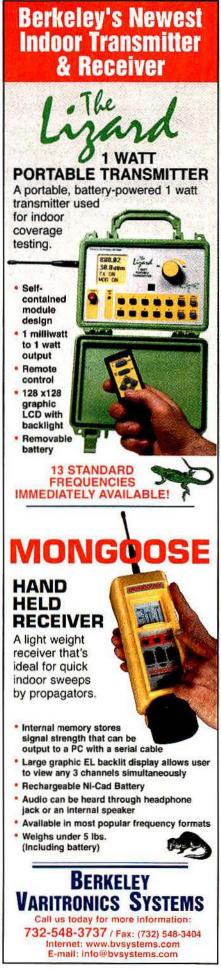
Photo 2. This AT&T surface jack was modified as shown in Figure 1 above to facilitate logger output.

transformers (Radio Shack part No. 273-1374) and a dc blocking capacitor on the microphone circuit. Using this technique, the audio balance is now excellent and the insertion loss is minimal.

For construction, we chose a four-pair AT&T surface jack that we had in stock (found in the back room) that eventually contained all the wiring and signal components. Wiring was either punched down on the type 110 connectors or made as flying connections, wrapped with heat-shrink caps. One four-wire and one eight-wire telco cord from North Supply completed the job, as shown in Photo 2 at the left. In operation, the regular desktop or palm mic plugs into the adapter box, and the eight-conductor line cord plugs into the radio mic jack. The two-wire line cord feeds the recorder interface box.

The vox recording mode works well because transmit and receive audio sources are quiet between calls.

The adapter box is cheap, dependable and assembles quickly. So, because Larry Pratt knows everybody, be sure to thank him for the idea when you see him again.



Circle (14) on Fast Fact Card

## Transmission lines: unravelling the mystery

By Harold Kinley

RF transmission lines have always presented an element of mystery. However, understanding the behavior of transmission lines is important to those of us who routinely work with these conduits of RF energy. Call them feedlines, transmission lines or simply "coax"—the *purpose* is to get energy from a transmitter output to an antenna, or from an antenna to a receiver input.

#### Non-resonant lines

When a transmission line is terminated in its characteristic impedance, all

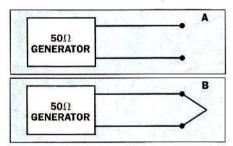


Figure 1. (A) A  $50\Omega$  transmission line that is unterminated, or open-circuited, at the end. The behavior of such a line is described in Table 1, below. (B) A  $50\Omega$  transmission line that is short-circuited at the end. The behavior of such a line is also described in Table 1.

of the power delivered to the load by the incident (forward-traveling) wave is absorbed by the load. The line is said to be non-resonant in this situation. The impedance at each point along the line, at any point between the generator and the load, is the same. There is no reflected wave on the line. The impedance will be equal to the characteristic impedance of the line. The length of the line in this case is not important, except where loss is concerned. You might say that, compared to resonant lines, non-resonant lines are boring.

#### Resonant lines

When a transmission line is terminated with an impedance that is *not* equal to the characteristic impedance of the line, things change. The impedance along the line between the generator and load varies but repeats at every half wavelength  $(\lambda/2)$  from the load. The load impedance may be purely resistive, or it may contain an element of reactance, either inductive or capacitive.

In Figure 1A at the left, a  $50\Omega$  transmission line (in a  $50\Omega$  radio system) is open-circuited at the load end. This is a theoretically perfect transmission line. It exhibits no loss and has a velocity factor of 1. Let's look down the line

from the load end toward the generator, or source, in *one-thirty-second-wave-length* ( $1/32\lambda$ ) increments. We only need to cover  $\lambda/2$  of line because the situation starts repeating at  $\lambda/2$ . The second column in Table 1 below shows what the impedance will be at each incremental point on the line. Remember, this is for an open-circuited line—a near-perfect open circuit.

Now, if we place a short circuit on the end of the transmission line shown in Figure 1B, the situation changes. The third column of Table 1 (for the short-circuited line) lists the impedance value at each location moving from the end of the line toward the generator. This is for a near-perfect short circuit.

Some interesting points can be gleaned by studying Table 1. First, for the open-circuited line, the impedance consists of infinite resistance and infinite reactance at the end of the line. As the distance increases down the line (toward the generator), the resistive component becomes  $0\Omega$  and the inductive reactive component decreases until it reaches  $0\Omega$  at  $\lambda/4$  from the end of the line. Thus,  $\lambda/4$  from the end of the line, the impedance has shifted from an open circuit to a short circuit—a complete impedance transformation.

Now, moving further down the line from the end, between  $\lambda/4$  and  $\lambda/2$ , the resistive component remains at  $0\Omega$ while the reactive component switches from inductive to capacitive and increases up to infinity ( $\infty$ ) at the  $\lambda/2$ point. It is interesting to note that the reactive component is equal to the characteristic impedance of the line at both the  $\lambda/8$  and  $3\lambda/8$  points. However, at the  $\lambda/8$  point, the reactance is capacitive, but it is inductive at the  $3\lambda/8$  point. At the λ/2 point, the impedance again becomes infinity ( $\infty \pm j\infty$ ). Thus, the impedance repeats at λ/2. This entire sequence would repeat for every  $\lambda/2$ section of the transmission line. So, it is only necessary to study λ/2 section of

Table 1. The first column represents the distance from the end of the line in  $\lambda/32$  wavelength increments. As shown here, the impedance repeats at every half wavelength and inverts at every quarter wavelength. These figures represent the situation with a lossless transmission line.

DISTANCE FROM LOAD (λ)	OPEN-CIRCUIT LINE IMPEDANCE (Ω)	SHORT-CIRCUIT LINE IMPEDANCE (Ω)
0/32	∞ ± j∞	0 ± <i>j</i> 0
1/32	0 - <i>j</i> 250	0+/10
2/32 = 1/16	0 - /120	0 + /21
3/32	0 – j75	0 + /33
4/32 = 1/8	0 – <i>j</i> 50	0 + /50
5/32	0 – /33	0 + /75
6/32 = 3/16	0 - j21	0 + /120
7/32	0 – /10	0 + /250
8/32 = 1/4	0 ± j0	∞ ± <b>j</b> ∞
9/32	0 + j10	0 - j250
10/32 = 5/16	0 + j21	0 - /120
11/32	0 + <i>j</i> 33	0 - /75
12/32 = 3/8	0 + <i>j</i> 50	0 – <i>j</i> 50
13/32	0 + /75	0 – /33
14/32 = 7/16	0 + /120	0 – j21
15/32	0 + <i>j</i> 250	0 – /10
16/32 = 1/2	∞ ± j∞	0 - <i>j</i> 0

Contributing Editor Kinley, MRT's technical consultant and a certified electronics engineer, is regional communications manager. South Carolina Forestry Commission, Spartanburg, SC. He is the author of Standard Radio Communications Manual, with Instrumentation and Testing Techniques, which is available for direct purchase. Write to 204 Tanglewylde Drive, Spartanburg, SC 29301.

Kinley's email address is hkinley@home.com.

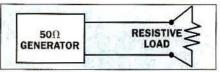


Figure 2. A 50 $\Omega$  transmission line is terminated in a purely resistive load that is unequal to the characteristic impedance of the transmission line. See text for examples.

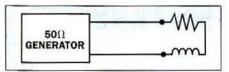


Figure 3: This  $50\Omega$  transmission line is terminated in a complex impedance load consisting of a 25 $\Omega$  resistor and an inductive reactance of 25 $\Omega$ . See text for details.

line to understand what is happening on the entire line.

The third column of Table 1 summarizes what happens with a short-circuited transmission line. Of course, at the short-circuited end, the impedance is  $0 \pm i\Omega$ . Between the end of the line and the  $\lambda/4$  point, the reactance is inductive. This is the reverse of the opencircuited line. Again, at the  $\lambda/8$  and  $3\lambda/8$ points, the reactance is equal to the characteristic impedance of the line. At the  $\lambda/4$  point, the impedance becomes an open circuit ( $\propto \pm j \propto$ ). Between the  $\lambda/4$  and  $\lambda/2$  points, the reactance switches to capacitive reactance. And, at the  $\lambda/2$  point, the short circuit at the end of the line is repeated and will do so at every multiple of  $\lambda/2$  down the line toward the generator.

From this it can be concluded that for an open- or short-circuited transmission line, the impedance at any point between the end of the line and the  $\lambda/2$ point will consist of  $0\Omega$  resistance and a reactive component that extends from 0 to infinity. Note that for an opencircuited line, the resistance component switches abruptly from  $0\Omega$  to infinity at the  $\lambda/2$  point and every multiple thereof referenced to the end of the line. Conversely, for a short-circuited line, the resistance component switches abruptly from  $0\Omega$  to infinity at the  $\lambda/4$  point and every odd multiple thereof referenced to the end of the line.

It can further be stated that if the load impedance is purely resistive and greater than the characteristic impedance of the line, the reactance will be capacitive at any point between the end of the line and  $\lambda/4$  from the end, and inductive between the  $\lambda/4$  and  $\lambda/2$ points. If the load impedance is purely resistive and less than the characteristic impedance of the line, the reactance will be inductive at any point between the end of the line and the  $\lambda/4$  point, and capacitive between the  $\lambda/4$  and  $\lambda/2$ points.

Figure 2 at the left illustrates a transmission line, with a characteristic impedance of 50Ω, terminated with a load that is a pure resistance of  $25\Omega$  $(25 \pm j0)$ . The VSWR will be 2:1. We can determine the impedance at  $\lambda/4$ from the end of the line by using the following formula:

$$Z_1 = \frac{Z^2}{Z_1}$$

where Z is the characteristic impedance of the line, Z1 is the impedance at the  $\lambda/4$  point and Z<sub>L</sub> is the load impedance. In Figure 2, the load impedance is a pure resistance of  $25\Omega$  and the characteristic impedance of the line is  $50\Omega$ . Now, plugging these values into the equation above we get:

$$Z_1 = \frac{50^2}{25} = \frac{2,500}{25} = 100$$

Thus, the impedance at the  $\lambda/4$  point is  $100\Omega$ . The VSWR will still be 2:1. Assuming a lossless line, the VSWR at any point on a line will be the same.

If in Figure 2 the  $50\Omega$  transmission line was terminated by a load with a pure resistance of 100Ω, the VSWR would still be 2:1. The impedance at a point  $\lambda/4$  away from the end (according to the formula above) will be:

$$\frac{50^2}{100} = \frac{2,500}{100} = 25$$

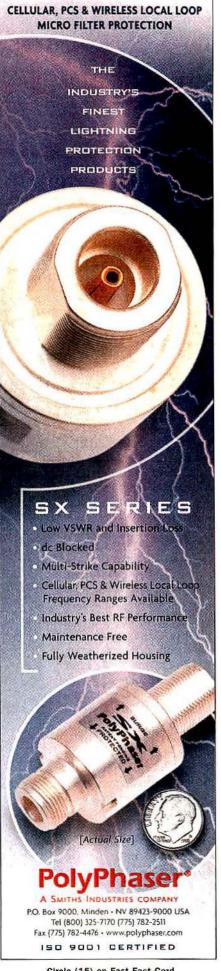
Suppose the line is terminated in a complex impedance, one that contains both resistive and reactive components. The formula still holds true, but now we must enter the load impedance in complex form. In Figure 3, a  $50\Omega$  transmission line is terminated in an impedance of 25 + j25 ohms. Plugging this into the formula we get:

$$Z = \frac{50^{2}}{(25+j25)} = \frac{2.500}{(25+j25)} = \frac{2.500}{25(1+j)} = \frac{100}{(1+j)}$$
$$= \frac{100}{(1+j)} \times \frac{(1-j)}{(1-j)} = \frac{100(1-j)}{2} = 50 - j50$$

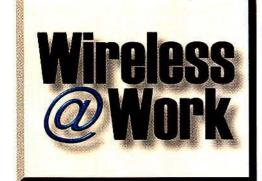
Thus, the impedance  $\lambda/4$  down the line is equal to  $50 - j50\Omega$ . The inductive reactance present in the load impedance has been transformed into capacitive reactance at the λ/4 point down the line. To reiterate, although the impedance on the line changes, the VSWR does not change.

Next month's column deals with practical applications of this information.

So, until next time ... stay tuned!



Circle (15) on Fast Fact Card



# FedEx and land mobile

Private wireless spectrum plays a crucial role in the operations infrastructure of one of the world's largest courier and business delivery services.

By Thomas G. Dolan

Santa Claus supposedly just completed a phantasmagorical worldwide delivery of packages in one night. Another entity performs an equally Herculean task: worldwide distribution of 3.1 million packages, weighing more than 7 million pounds—every night. This delivery artery doesn't just carry gifts, it carries the lifeblood of worldwide commerce.

How does FedEx do it? It takes many different ingredients, all linked by a vast communications infrastructure that includes land mobile radio.

In 1971, Memphis, TNbased Federal Express was incorporated. (The company was officially rebranded as "FedEx" in 1994.) The FedEx mission of transporting timesensitive goods door to door reliably-and overnightwas a radical idea based on a simple "hub-and-spoke" model. The company would fly packages to a central location, sort them, load them back onto planes and fly them to their destinationall in the middle of the night.

The FedEx idea attracted entrepreneurial employees and investors who were willing to dream big. The company bought a squadron of Dassault Falcon jets, many of which had been collecting dust in the New Mexico desert. At the time, it was the most heavily financed startup in U.S. transportation history.

On April 17, 1973, working out of World

War II-vintage Air National Guard hangers in Memphis, FedEx started operations serving 25 cities. The company delivered 186 packages that first night, using 389 employees. It's amazing when you think about it—about two employees per package.

To measure the distance covered

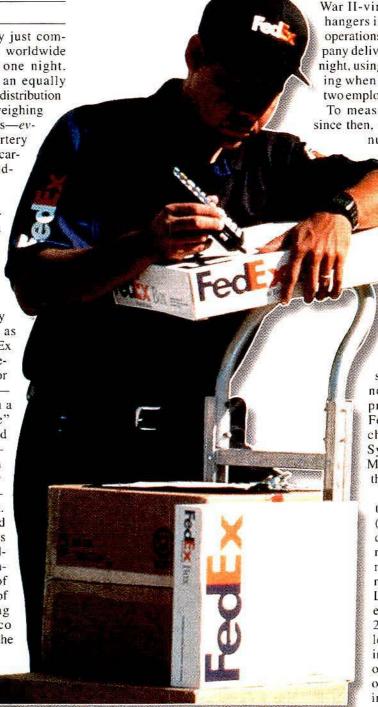
To measure the distance covered since then, consider a few stagggering numbers. Generating \$14

billion in annual revenues, FedEx now delivers about 3.1 million packages daily to 210 countries. It takes some 148,000 employees ship-

ping via 634 aircraft and more than 42,500 vehicles worldwide.

The development of the communications infrastructure to support this phenomenal growth has been a process of invention for FedEx. Nathan Lemmon, chief engineer for Wireless Systems Development in Memphis, pointed out that there was no precedent.

"When FedEx invented this industry in 1973, no one (not even the inventor) understood the volume, or the real-time nature of the communications that would be required to make it work," Lemmon said. "When your entire business cycle is only 24 hours, you can't spend a lot of that time communicating. Within five to six years of initial launch of service, our business growth was being throttled by the inability to dispatch our couriers in a



timely manner. The business was out there, but we couldn't get the information to our workforce. In the late '70s, early '80s, there were no wide-area voice systems, much less data-capable networks. So we had to invent wide-area

voice and data capability as well."

Lemmon said that the availability of private wireless spectrum to facilitate such an operation is critical.

"It's ironic that 20 years later ... there are still no commercial wireless providers offering wide-area, integrated, packet data and dispatch voice services," Lemmon said. "While some providers are rumored to be close, and some providers

are promising, you can't run a timecritical business on rumor or promises.

"Even when a public provider can offer the basic feature set that FedEx requires to maintain current mobile workforce productivity levels, it will take several years, if ever, for this provider to match our current wide-area coverage and low operating cost."

In 1980, radio contact with fleet vehicles was augmented with the digital transmission of data to in-vehicle terminals. The Digitally Assisted Dispatch System (DADS) began guiding couriers to their next pickup.

Keith McGArr, vice president, network computing, said that since the company added data to its mobile radio installations in the early 1980s, it now has one of the world's largest private mobile data networks. Operating on an IEEE 802.11 wireless messaging standard at 800MHz, the wireless network connects to some 83,000 couriers online.

The digital specifications for the mobile data/radio units were developed by FedEx; M/A-COM, Lowell, MA, designed the mobiles and base stations to spec. "The architecture evolved as we worked with M/A-COM on tweaking and optimizing the software and hardware," Lemmon said. M/A-COM is still FedEx's only supplier of the technology.

The units not only support accurate dispatching but also the multiple changes and adjustments that such a magnitude of deliveries entails. In the

Dolan is a freelance telecommunications writer.

United States alone, daily routes driven cover more than 2.7 million miles.

In addition to courier communications, there are other focused uses for land mobile radio. Take, for instance, the authorized shipcenters, of which



there are more than 7,600. The largest, the superhub at Memphis headquarters, employs 12,200 people working in 2.4 million square feet of floor space. Coordination of package handling is critical, with a box sort capacity of 160,000 pieces per hour and a document sort capacity of 325,000 pieces per hour. Radio support for this process is essential, with about 3,000 employees on the wireless network. Aircraft mechanics and other support employees in the 1,400 world service centers also require wireless communications support for their tasks.

Network-wide, FedEx uses about 40,000 mobile data/ voice units and about 2,500 hand-held data terminals. About 760 base stations support the network on leased tower space. FedEx owns all the fixed equipment and manages and operates the network of about 600 different sites.

"Our coverage is somewhat less than analog cellular, but more than Ardis or BellSouth Wireless Data. It's not all digital yet. We've been rolling out our second-generation digital technology for about 18 months, and we're at about 10,000

units, or approximately 25% of the fleet." Lemmon said in December.

The RF systems support for this vast network requires the services of about 300 field service techs who do the endto-end service under the control of the

Memphis-based RF Network Control Center, composed of around 10 technicians. Another 10 Memphis-based technicians do the depotlevel repairs and support the RF and mobile data terminal devices, Lemmon said.

"Base station maintenance is contracted to local radio shops and dispatched from Memphis, based on input from our field techs and

Network Management System," he said.

Although traditional radio plays an integral part in FedEx's overall communications, it is but one strand of a communications network.

FedEx has deployed 2.4GHz (ISM) wireless LANs at its hubs for wireless scanning and packet data applications, in addition to the private trunked radio systems. A new digital mobile has the option for an internal GPS receiver. Lemmon said that the cost justification for roll-out is now being reviewed. "As our real-time, on-route package-

### FedEx headquarters

Worldwide: Memphis, TN

Asia: Hong Kong Canada: Toronto

Europe: Brussels, Belgium Latin America: Miami

#### FedEx company statistics

Revenues: \$14 billion, fiscal year 1999 Employees: More than 145,000 worldwide

Countries served: 210 Mobile radios used: 40,000 Base stations: 760

Base stations: 760 Aircraft fleet: 634 worldwide

Vehicle fleet: More than 42,500 worldwide

Average package

volume: More than 3.2 million daily worldwide Average call volume: More than 500,000 calls daily Distance driven per day: More than 2.7 million miles

(just in the United States)

Internet: More than four million monthly hits; more than two million packages tracked per month

tracking application gives us the last known location of our courier, we've had the luxury of waiting for the cost of GPS receivers to become a non-issue." he said.

FedEx has always been on the cutting edge of technology, but in the past the growth of various communications systems (mobile radio, circuit-switch telephone, mainframe computers, satellite systems) occured separately as distinct networks.

"But, what has evolved over the past three years is the convergence of wireless, voice, video data, satellite and wide-area networks all into a common

digital infrastructure," McGarr said. "It looks like a common virtual network, with a coming together of all of the different content built on the Internet protocol (IP) standards."

The whole point of FedEx's commu-

nications network is that it appears seamless and transparent to the user, whether that person is a sales or cus-

tomer service rep, a courier or a network



engineer. The same holds true for the customer, whether he makes his connection by a physical drop at a shipcenter, or by using telephone, email, radio or any other medium to request a pickup or to query the status of a package or docu-

ment. The content is all translated into the same system and then sorted and dispersed again as needed. Call volume averages more than 500,000 transactions

> per day, plus 60 million electronic transmissions.

There is also an entirely different, but equally important, aspect to communications FedEx. "It's fundamental to understand that, from our early days, we realized that the movement of information was just as important as the package," McGarr said. "The ability to have real-time control over where the package is and when it will be de-

livered is critical to the customer."

FedEx realizes that, for commerical customers, delivery is one link in a complex "supply chain" that extends from a company's suppliers to its customers. Managed strategically, the supply chain

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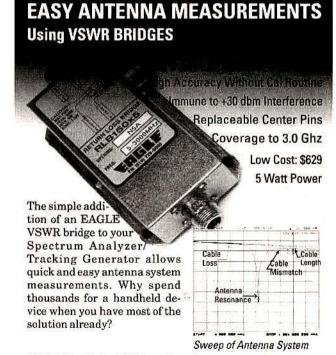
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### FedEx information technology

In getting the package from "here" to "there." FedEx uses a number of procedures derived from \$1.4 billion it budgets for technology. Here are some of the key ones:

- The information network that tracks the movement of every shipment in the system is called Customer Oriented Service and Management Operating System (COS-MOS). In a typical month, customers tap into COSMOS via the Internet nearly two million times for an update on shipment status.
- The "Supertracker" is what FedEx calls the process through which a hand-held scanner captures information on each FedEx package with a quick scan of the package's unique bar code. Each package receives as many as 10 scans, from pickup to delivery, pinpointing the real-time status of the package en route. New technology will address the problem of incorrectly addressed packages by letting couriers verify addresses at the time of pickup.
- "Automated Sorting Tracing Routing Aid" (ASTRA) is the official name for the unique bar code on every FedEx shipment, generated when customers use the FedEx electronic shipping system of whenever packages enter the system. Encoded on the label are data such as destination, service requested and commitment time. In a FedEx hub, the ASTRA label aids in correct sorting and routing.





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# **Predicting radio channel capacity**

Use patterns in a conventional two-way system affect channel capacity, which can be predicted using a voice message analogy similar to a data packet. User effects can then be modeled with an adaptive user-protocol concept.

By Stephen E. Bartlett, B.S., M.S.

Individuals involved in the design and support of conventional two-way radio systems may have asked themselves at one time or another, "What is the real capacity of this single radio channel anyway?" Over the years, figuring out the actual capacity of a single channel has seemed a bit elusive. Although single channel capacity is not constant, it is predictable. It's no surprise that as more users try to access a system, it becomes congested. What is a surprise is another dimension to the problem that isn't so obvious.

This article presents an approach to understanding why and how land mobile channels can get congested so quickly during periods of heavy use. This approach models the radio user as an "adaptive protocol machine." Specifically, the user's radio etiquette is treated as an analogy to protocol schemes that control com-

munications channels. In the context of this article, "protocol" applies to the relaying of voice communications between two users on a single shared

conventional channel (non-trunked).

#### Multiple-access channel

The conventional land mobile radio is

IDLE TIMES BETWEEN MESSAGES

MESSAGES OF VARIOUS LENGTHS

60 SECONDS

Figure 1. Conventional channel message packet analogy.

a shared, multiple-access medium with several users competing to use it. These users randomly capture the channel, one at a time, and fill it with voice messages of varying lengths, each separated by a random idle time. (See Figure 1 below.) Given this constant competition, a user's radio etiquette, or protocol, can determine how effectively a single channel can be shared by many. The concept of a multiple-access communications medium is more popularly identified with packet radio or LANs. However, it can also apply to the conventional channel if the following analogies are made between parameters that define a packet data channel and a conventional voice channel:

☐ Channel capacity: typically measured in *data bits per second*. The conventional channel analogy is *voice messages* per minute.

☐ Packet: defined for data in *bits* per frame per transmitted packet. For the voice analogy it can be de-

- fined as seconds per message per PTT.

  Collision vulnerability window: generally defined in data channels as propagation time vs. packet time. A voice channel analogy can be PTT activation time vs. idle time between messages.
- ☐ Protocol: a tightly followed procedure programmed in data modems.

  The voice radio analogy can be thought of as a loosely followed radio behavior (etiquette) in humans.
- ☐ Throughput delay: total time to successfully receive a complete message (consider these equal for both the data and the voice analogy).

The mathematics for calculating the throughput capacity of a data channel can be scaled with these

Bartlett is a senior wireless engineer and senior associate at Booz, Allen & Hamilton, McLean, VA. His email address is bartlett steve@bah.com.

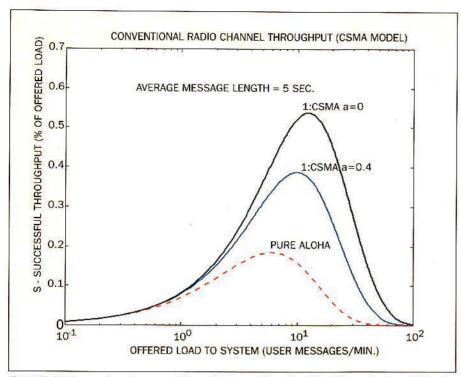


Figure 2. Various protocol curves of throughput vs. offered load for different vulnerability window values, a, with five-second messages.

analogous channel parameters to calculate the expected throughput capacity of voice messages in the conventional channel. (Based on statistics of random events.)

A protocol is a set of rules governing the use of a communications medium. Protocols are programmed into several layers of a communications system to

promote efficient use of the communications medium and to ensure optimum throughput. Generally, protocols are designed to ensure that most of the offered load (a transmitted message) becomes a successful throughput (a message successfully received and understood). Several types of multiple-access schemes exist, but only two are considered for this adaptive user definition-pure ALOHA (non-slotted), a transmit when ready scheme, and carrier-sense, multiple-access (CSMA), a transmit after listening scheme.

#### Adaptive user protocol concept

To illustrate the adaptive user protocol concept, consider the typical user's call behavior when using a conventional channel, and how it mimics the ALOHA or CSMA protocols previously described. The user will either:

- 1. Transmit immediately without regard to whether the channel is being used.
- 2. Listen until the channel is idle before transmitting. When the channel is idle, the user may (a) transmit immediately, (b) wait a random time before transmitting or (c) choose not to transmit at all and try later.

Each of these user choices represents a different type of multiple-access



protocol scheme. The behavior in Case 1 illustrates pure ALOHA, with the user transmitting without regard as to whether the channel is busy. The Case 2 behavior is similar to a CSMA scheme with a listening action (carrier sensing) prior to transmission (access). Each subsequent transmit decision in Case 2 is defined by a range of probabilities that the user will transmit in the idle timeframe. This is referred to as the persistence probability and is represented by p, with values from 0 to 1.

For instance, the immediate transmit decision in Case 2a pertains to a I-persistant CSMA, meaning there is a 100% chance that an immediate transmission will take place when the channel becomes idle. The Case 2b decision, waiting a random time before transmitting, represents p-persistent CSMA, reflecting the distributed probability of transmission among all users, some of whom may choose immediate transmission (p = 1), and some of whom may choose to wait a while (p < 1).

The choice to not transmit at all but to try again later, Case 2c, represents npersistent CSMA ( $p \sim 0$ ). Many conventional LMR systems have users falling in either the p-persistent CSMA or 1persistent CSMA protocol category. The
study on which this article is based assumed 1-persistent CSMA behavior by
all users, choosing to transmit as soon as
the channel is idle.

For normal (light to moderate) radio traffic, most users will exercise proper radio etiquette, resulting in channel stability, high potential channel throughput and minimum throughput delay times (no waiting, no message repeats). When a crisis occurs, more users attempt to communicate on the channel, resulting in more messages with fewer, shorter times between messages to gain access. This behavior increases the chance for message collisions, especially as users grow impatient from waiting a long time for the chance to transmit. In turn, this result increases the throughput delay because of wait times and repeated messages caused by collisions.

#### On a collision path

Concerning collisions, it is important to note that in the conventional LMR channel, no immediate collision awareness exists because the receiver is muted during a transmission. Therefore, a user won't know if another user is transmitting at the same moment. Consequently, these messages collide and both users continue talking, each assuming exclusively channel access. Both messages are unintelligible (because of distortion from radio heterodyne, in most cases).

During this collision, the channel is unusable to others and is actually blocked until both users finally release their PTTs. This situation further increases throughput delay and reduces channel availability for everyone. In extreme crisis situations, some users may forget their proper radio etiquette and become a bit selfish. More users may transmit without waiting for the channel to become idle and try to "punch through" the radio clutter. Such action causes many more message collisions and the channel starts sounding like a continuous stream of noise with no discernible communications.

Eventually, the effective throughput of the channel is reduced to nearly zero. Such anxious user behavior mirrors the pure ALOHA multiple-access protocol scheme. No listening is being done, and users are transmitting whenever they feel like it, just hoping to get through.

#### Protocol simulation

To test the utility of this concept, an adaptable multiple-access algorithm was modeled with MATLAB to predict the channel capacity and to simulate



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how capacity is affected as users change behavior. To model behavior change, I used a variable, the *collision vulnerabil*ity window, that made it possible to assess how the adaptive user protocol affects overall channel capacity. This variable measures the period of possible collision and can be universally applied in any random-access protocol.

The vulnerability window is the key to understanding how a change in user protocol can severely affect a radio's channel capacity. The vulnerability window, a, was defined in the model as the ratio of human PTT activation time  $(Tptt \sim 0.2 \text{sec.})$  vs. the average idle time between messages  $(W \sim \text{many sec.})$ , with the equation:

$$a = Tptt \div W$$
.

This illustrates to what degree a changing user protocol affects the channel capacity. Outputs from the adaptive user protocol model are graphed in Figure 2 on page 25.

Although an average five-second message length was used in this model, real message lengths vary randomly around that figure, some even lasting 15 seconds or more. In periods of low message load, W is quite large compared to Tptt, and the vulnerability window is nearly zero  $(a \sim 0)$ , meaning almost no vulnerability period exists (no collisions). The tallest curve in Figure 2 shows the throughput characteristics of the 1-persistent CSMA protocol throughput with a = 0. The peak channel throughput is at  $S_{\text{max}} = 0.54$ , meaning that, at best, 54% of the offered load can be passed successfully through the channel. As the message traffic increases, W reduces significantly, and the vulnerability window value grows larger. The second curve, "1-p CSMA," models a channel in an early phase of a high use with a = 0.4. The throughput drops to  $S_{\text{max}} = 0.38$ . Under heavy loads, a nearly continuous vulnerability period is present (many collisions). Consequently, as the load increases, the throughput eventually converges to the pure ALOHA value (dashed line), where the best throughput is only  $S_{\text{max}} = 0.18$ , with a maximum probability of collisions, and low throughput. This variable, as it turns out, is not so obvious. When radio users forget their good protocol behavior, it degrades the channel's throughput potential. The channel not only suffers from a rise in users trying to get "on the air," but the channel's capacity to handle this increasing load is reduced by the many users who forget their etiquette out of frustration. This is why congestion occurs rapidly during

periods of heavy use. It's like standing on a hose when you're trying to get more water through it.

#### A word about trunking

In a trunked radio system, especially one with a central control channel, users have no direct impact on the channel capacity. The control channel manages the vulnerability window by providing a protocol buffer between the human operator and the channel. This buffer allows for full capacity use of the channel, minimum throughput delay and no message collisions, especially during heavy use. These are just some of the reasons why trunking provides a more efficient use of the spectrum by providing maximum throughput capacity of channels and preventing users from compromising capacity.

#### A useful concept

The concept of creating an analogy between the conventional radio channel and a packet data channel, with the radio users as "adaptive protocol machines," is helpful in calculating the maximum throughput capacity that can be expected from a conventional channel. It aids understanding of how maximum throughput of a single channel, during various channel loads, is affected by the adaptability of the users. The concept also illustrates why system users need to learn how to maintain their call etiquette during crisis situations.

The model is helpful in several other ways. It illustrates the underlying

mechanisms of how users directly affect systems, and it is especially valuable in creating a model for predicting the actual changing load and capacity of a conventional multiple-access channel. It also illustrates how, by comparison, trunking can benefit channel efficiency. Finally, it shows that maximum theoretical throughput for a single channel to be about 54% of the offered load. This factor yields a maximum of about five to seven five-second user messages per minute that can be transmitted under a heavy offered user load of nine to 11 five-second messages per minute, which is an example of a busy channel.

Beyond that, if users begin changing their protocol, channel throughput drops rapidly to zero.

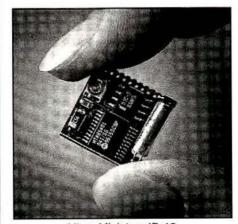
So, how many users can a typical channel support? To find out, determine the parameters of maximum throughput and the probability of user access. With a maximum throughput of about six messages per minute, and a probability of user access of 0.08 (the chance of *any* user with one five-second message per minute, per user), a single channel could support as many as 75 users. That is:

# users = 
$$\frac{\text{throughput}}{\text{probability of user access} \times \text{message length}}$$

Or:  $N = \frac{30 \text{ sec.}}{0.08 \times 5 \text{ sec.}}$ 

It is interesting to note that in the FCC guidelines (47 CFR Part 90.633a), the per-channel loading for non-SMR conventional channels is authorized for a minimum of 70 users. I guess I could have just looked it up.

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A southern application of satellite communications to rural emergency medical services demonstrates the advantages 'sky repeaters' offer to rural areas.

By Tom D. Soumas Jr. and Dave Robertson

#### EMS COMM

Satellite communications—once considered an exotic and forbiddingly expensive method of mobile communications—is becoming a viable option for public safety agencies for several reasons. The size, weight and cost of portable and mobile satellite terminals have dropped considerably in recent years, as have the usage costs for the satellite services. At the same time, the range of mobile satellite services has blossomed, with new capabilities such as fax, data, position tracking and dispatch radio becoming readily available at an affordable cost.

This article examines some of the current and projected mobile satellite communications technologies, the range of satellite services available and the cost-benefits of satellite communications for public safety applications.

#### LEOs and MEOs and GEOs-oh my!

The satellite communications industry is rapidly developing and growing. Industry news reports are full of the fortunes and misfortunes of companies such as Iridium, ICO, AMSC and Globalstar. It can all be baffling for the layperson, who simply wants to get the best products and service at the best price.

We'll start with a quick overview of the different choices in satellite communications. The satellite systems are normally grouped by the height of orbit for the "birds" in space.

► Low-orbit systems — Low-earthorbit satellite systems (LEOs) are relatively small and low-powered. They orbit the earth rapidly. Because they are close to the earth's surface, they do not require as much power. This also means that the mobile transceiver requires only a relatively small omnidirectional antenna. LEO satellites are cheaper to build and to put into orbit. On the other hand, with LEOs you need more satellites to provide global coverage. The switching scheme is more complex because the rapidly moving satellites are constantly having to hand off calls to each other, and a worldwide infrastructure of ground stations is required. Iridium, Teledesic and Globalstar are LEO systems.

Soumas is president of SatCom Systems, Burbank, CA. and Robertson is vice president of Emergystat, Vernon, AL.

► Medium-orbit systems — The next group of satellites are medium-earth orbit (MEOs). They are also sometimes called ICOs, for "intermediate circular orbit." With a MEO system, you can cover the earth with fewer satellites, but the higher-powered spacecraft are more expensive to build and to launch into orbit. Spaceway and ICO Global Communications are both examples of MEO systems.

► Geosynchronous systems — Finally, there are geosynchronous satellite systems (GEOs). The GEO systems are based on the premise that a satellite placed in orbit over the equator at precisely the right altitude has an orbital speed exactly the same as the earth's rotation on its axis. This means that the satellite's position in the sky relative to



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T-6

a fixed point on the ground will always be the same. This has obvious advantages for fixed antenna systems such as home TV systems. It also has the benefit of being able to offer nearly global

cover age with only a few satellites. On the other hand, the orbital distances are such that much larger, high-powered satellites are required, and they are far more difficult and expensive to launch into orbit.

Probably the best-known GEO system in mobile communications is Inmarsat, which was originally created for maritime communications with ships on the high seas. The Inmarsat system has also won a considerable share of the land-

mobile market with the latest generation of relatively small briefcase-size satellite terminals. Inmarsat provides worldwide coverage, except for the extreme polar regions.

There are also a number of regional

GEOs, such as the MSAT satellites, over North America, and other similar systems for the Far East, Australia, South America, Europe and Africa. These regional systems typically use spot

beams to maximize power into specific areas.

MSAT-1 is a good example of a regional GEO system. The MSAT-1 satellite is in geostationary orbit at 106.5° west longitude and operates in the L-band frequency range. The footprint

> Central America, extending from the Arctic Circle to the north-

ern portion of Ecuador. The satellite system is operated by TMI Communications, a Canadian consortium. SatCom Systems has been providing MSAT-1 services to the U.S. market under a Special Temporary Authority (STA) from the FCC since July 1998. Full License Authority was granted to the company by the FCC in November 1999. A similar service is also provided by American Mobile Satellite Corporation (AMSC) through the MSAT-2 satellite.

> The recent bankruptcies of Iridium and ICO should in no way be taken as a sign that the technology is faltering or slowing down. On the contrary, these pioneering systems have led the way into an exciting new world of mocommunica

tions, and the prospect of hand-held cellular-like satellite phones is on the verge of becoming a reality. The next generation of satellites, such as Teledesic, will provide a true high-speed data bus permitting wireless Internet and elec-

tronic connectivity worldwide.

Meanwhile, back to today

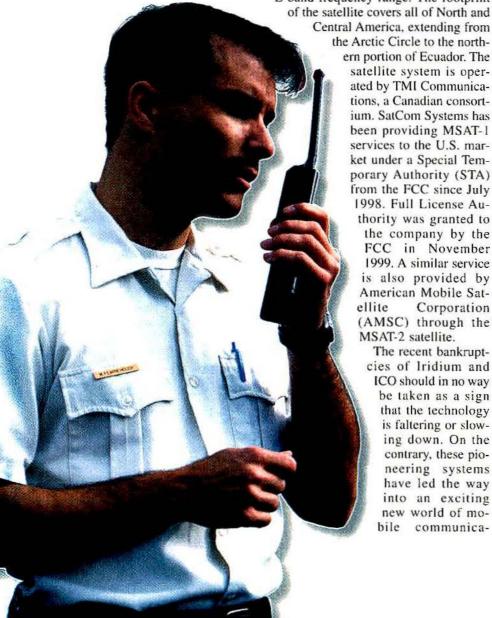
Satellite communications systems (whether they are LEOs, MEOs or GEOs) provide a wide range of services, including voice, fax and data. Other services typically include vehicle tracking and differential GPS data broadcasts for precise positioning. For instance, MSAT-1 users in the United States have a choice of dial-up telephony, fax, circuitswitched data, packet-switched data and push-to-talk (PTT) two-way dispatch radio. The latter service, marketed by SatCom Systems under the trade name NetRadio, is supporting applications in the public safety sector, especially in remote rural areas.

The service uses dedicated satellite channels to provide two-way, halfduplex, point-to-multipoint dispatch communications. Subscribers get unlimited satellite usage at a fixed monthly rate. Functionally, it is identical to a terrestrial, trunked, two-way radio system, with channels, talk groups and familiar PTT microphones. The only difference is that the repeater is some 22,000 miles in space instead of on a tower.

Supporting rural EMS

A glance at any political map of the United States reveals that large portions of the country are thinly populated. Yet, residents of these rural regions rightfully expect that they will have access to the same sort of police, ambulance and fire service as their counterparts in metropolitan areas. This expectation presents a challenge to public safety organizations.

Take, for example, Emergystat Ambulance Service, which operates a fleet of about 65 vehicles across a sparsely populated region of Alabama and Mississippi. Founded in Vernon, AL, in 1988, Emergystat has steadily expanded into a major regional EMS company. Today, the company provides paramedic services for 34 locations in Alabama and Mississippi, with more than 400 employees and 65 primary vehicles. More than 50 of these vehicles are typically in



service at any given time. Cellular and two-way radio coverage is unreliable or unavailable in much of this rural region.

Emergystat recently deployed a NetRadio system, installing satellite terminals on 15 vehicles and one fixed terminal at its dispatch center in Vernon. The units are all tied together in a private, dedicated talk group. Initial results are being evaluated, but it is believed that Emergystat can save more than \$10,000 annually, per location, by switching to the satellite dispatch radio system.

Satellite communications technology will play an important role in Emergystat's plans to expand its business. Every time the company moves into a new location, it can cost more than \$20,000 in capital outlay to set up a mobile radio network, including tower rentals, repeater purchase, leased landline connections and labor-not to mention the inevitable headaches of securing licenses. Many of the towns and counties in this part of the country renew agreements with EMS providers on an annual basis. It is difficult to justify the large capital and operating expenditures needed to establish and maintain modern trunked special mobile radio (SMR) networks for a thin-route area in a competitive marketplace.

The satellite network offers inherent flexibility in fleet management, permitting Emergystat to deploy vehicles rapidly from one service area to another. They can communicate via satellite with the dispatch center in Vernon no matter where they are.

Last year, for instance, when a hurricane hit the Gulf Coast, Emergystat had to deploy a number of vehicles on short notice to evacuate people from hospitals. Much of the time they were not in range of the installed SMR networks and were outside of cellular coverage, so the drivers were often completely out of touch with the dispatch center. This is one time that the satellite networks could literally have been lifesavers.

#### Not just for rural agencies

The benefits of mobile satellite communications for rural areas is obvious, but important benefits exist for urban areas as well, where satellite systems can provide essential backup for existing terrestrial systems. In a metropolitan area, where there are multiple layers of excellent, modern communications facilities, there is still an inherent vulnerability to disruption from natural disasters, such as earthquakes in California, hurricanes in Florida, ice storms in

Massachusetts and tornadoes in Kansas.

For these places, mobile satellite communications can provide a low-cost backup communications network for disaster relief and recovery. For instance, SatCom Systems deployed a large number of satellite terminals to Honduras and Nicaragua in the aftermath of Hurricane Mitch in 1998. In many cases, this was the only link with the outside world. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been a major user of the system in its rebuilding efforts in that heavily devastated region.

#### What's next?

Mobile wireless satellite technology is now a practical and cost-effective alternative for public safety communications, but that's just the beginning. In the next few years, as new satellite services such as Iridium, Globalstar, ICO and Teledesic come into service, a large portion of terrestrial communications will migrate naturally to satellites. Moreover, the satellites will open exciting new possibilities for vehicle tracking, asset management, precise positioning and high-speed data transfer.

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The following pages contain mobile radio, paging and cellular products and services of advertisers in this issue. Information is provided by the advertisers. For more information on these products, circle the corresponding Fast Fact number found on the card on page 57, or contact the advertiser directly. Also, refer to the Advertiser Index on page 56 for the page reference to the company's advertisement.



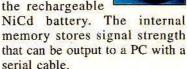
#### Spectrum analyzers

Anritsu's MS2711 is a handheld spectrum analyzer that delivers synthesizer-based performance to ensure accurate, reliable measurements—anywhere, anytime. The analyzer provides spectrum analysis in a lightweight, batteryoperated unit covering the 100kHz to 3,000MHz frequency range.

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#### Hand-held receiver

The Mongoose Berkeley Varitronics Systems is a lightweight, hand-held receiver that is suitable for quick, indoor sweeps by propagators. It weighs less than five pounds with the rechargeable



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#### Digital pager

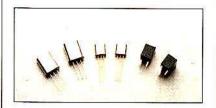
Digipager Wireless from Canamex Communications has an internal. 5W. UHF/VHF synthesized transmitter. The us-



er can page numerically or vibrate pagers from the keypad. The standard RS-232 port receives TAP alphanumeric messages from external sources such as nurse call systems or from other Quikpager input modules.

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#### ANI encoder

Control Signal's ID-12 ANI encoder has Motorola MDC-1200 format, pre- and post-ID, time-out and emergency. The 1D-12 is tiny  $(0.59" \times 0.65" \times 0.12")$  and works in any radio. Field programming or factory programming is available, Call 800-521-2203 or visit www.ControlSignal.com.

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#### Headset adapter

David Clark's model C6501 headset adapter is designed for



use with all David Clark series 6000 noiseattenuating headsets and Nextel digital cellphones. The adapter features a posi-"actiontive detented listen-

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#### Narrow notch

The Eagle TNF-400 tunable filters provide <0.7% notch width with notch depths of >30dB. Frequencies available are 10MHz to 500MHz. Units will pass up to 1.0GHz. Package size is  $3" \times 2"$ . Call for free application note. 520-204-2597.

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#### Survey meter

The model 8715 survey meter from Narda combines ease of operation with measurement capabilities. The meter can also make precise, spatially average measurements critical for the collinear dipole antenna arrays common in modern wireless communication systems.

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#### Speaker microphone

Otto Communications offers a new option in speaker microphones-the Otto V2-L. Sealed watertight, the series provides premium audio performance at an affordable price and is a suitable choice for those who can accept fewer features to reduce speaker mic costs. It is lighter and slimmer than the standard V2 speaker mic.

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#### Portable radio

The Motorola TS11 is now available from P&W Service Center with prices starting at \$169.75 for the VHF model. Prices include PL code. battery charger and belt clip. The radio is voice-programmable. The radio is compatible with SP10, SP21, TS10 and Spirit radios.

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#### Collinear array antenna

TX RX Systems, a division of Bird Technologies Group, is offering three versions of its broadband collinear array antenna for the 860MHz-960MHz range. Each model is an antenna featuring bandwidth and pattern consistency, along with 1,000W powerhandling capability.

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#### Power amplifiers

Wavelength Technologies' 100W SMR power amplifiers, H10 series, are for 450MHz-470MHz continuous-duty applications. They feature adjustable 10W-100W output, remote status and fault monitoring. They are fully modular and space-



efficient, fitting into a 3.5" rack. Call 800-872-6233.

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# ITA conference focuses on spectrum management

Regulatory issues affecting private wireless spectrum highlighted the annual meeting of the **Industrial Telecommunications Association** (ITA) and its independent market councils Oct. 27-30. More than 200 owners and users of private wireless systems attended the conference, held at

Washington's Grand Hyatt Hotel.

Highlights of the meeting included a question-and-answer session with Thomas Sugrue, chief of the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, an address by senior Motorola executive Robert W. Galvin and the first public announcement of the introduction of the Private



At ITA, WTB Chief Thomas Sugrue displays a fee calculator used in Great Britain.

Wireless Spectrum Act in Congress.

The spectrum legislation, which limits auctioning of private wireless spectrum and provides for additional spectrum assignment for private business and industrial use, was introduced in Congress concurrently with the three-day ITA meeting by Senators John B. Breaux (D-LA) and Slade Gorton (R-WA). The ITA honored Breaux Oct. 29 during the closing banquet for his outstanding contributions to private wireless.

Sugrue, in the opening conference session Oct. 27, told attendees that the FCC was "not hell-bent to impose an auction regime on the bands that are already encumbered and already in use." He also reported that the notorious backlog of pending licensing paperwork should be resolved by the end of the second quarter of 2000. Sugrue told the audience that "We need some new tools at the bureau," and he described an ongoing comparative review of licensing techniques in foreign countries.

At the closing banquet, 60-year-veteran Motorola executive Galvin praised the service efforts of the National Association of Motorola Service Stations (USMSS), one of ITA's independent market councils, and spoke of the need for comprehensive spectrum policy at the FCC.

Other sessions focused on technical advances in trunking and narrowbanding technology, FCC administrative activities and congressional efforts in the telecom arena. Attendees were also provided with a dedicated exhibition area for the second year running, which included exhibits by more than 25 manufacturers and service providers. *DK* 











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# CAD systems target small agencies

Oklahoma City-based Global Dispatch Technology continues to address the small- to mid-sized agency public safety market for computer-aided dispatch (CAD). At the November International Chiefs of Police Show in Charlotte, NC, Global unveiled its Dispatch Express system for 9-1-1 and dispatch centers serving populations of less than 100,000.

The system allows communities to uniquely identify equipment and employees. Communities can also define response districts and custom-configure information such as nature of incident, unit type, unit classification and alarm level. A single-screen display provides unit time stamping and call status. If an E9-1-1 has been completed, the system automatically fills in caller identification data. Optional interfaces to alphanumeric pagers, RMS and state NCIC databases are available. An early adopter of the system is the Clear Lake Emergency Medical Corps, Clear Lake, TX.

Simon Aleman Jr., Global founder and vice president of marketing, said the new system is a scaled-down version of the company's CAD Assist program. Mapping functions and GIS information have been removed because some small agencies either cannot afford or simply don't require such displays to operate effectively. Aleman called the system an "entry-level product" that allows dispatchers to match geographic codes with electronic "box cards" for response plans. A system with an RMS option can be installed for less than \$30,000, he said.

Global's recent contract awards include placing its PSAP Map system with the Sumner County, TN, Emergency Medical Services. Its CAD Assist system recently has been adopted by the Hancock County, IL, Emergency Telephone Systems Board and by the city of Saginaw, TX, for police dispatch.

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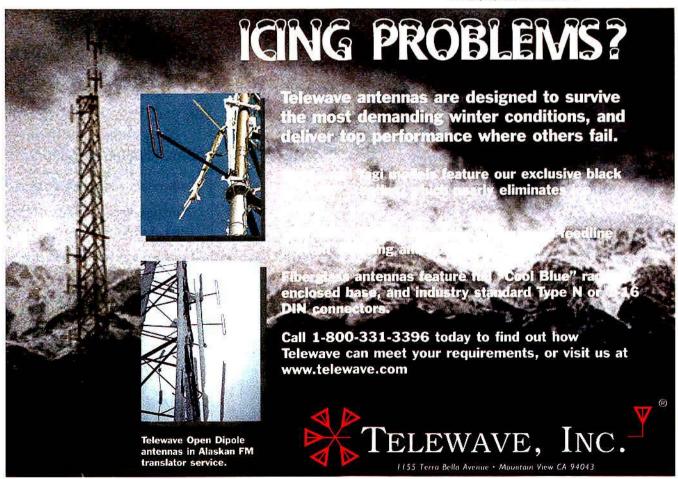
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### FCC Notes

The FCC reorganized its bureau structure at the end of 1999 to create a new Enforcement Bureau, consolidating activities within the Common Carrier, Mass Media, Wireless Telecommunications and Compliance and Information Bureaus. The Enforcement Bureau comprises four divisions: Telecommunications Consumers; Market Disputes Resolution; Technical and Public Safety; and Investigations and Hearings. The new bureau will also manage the commission's regional and field offices in charge of investigations, inspections and audits. Chief of the new bureau is David H. Solomon, formerly with the General Counsel's Office.

The FCC has allocated 75MHz of spectrum as part of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) national program. The 5.850GHz-5.925GHz band will be used for Dedicated Short Range Communications (DSRC) applications, such as traffic light control, travelers' alerts, emergency vehicle override of signals and electronic inspection of moving fleet vehicles.

The announced schedule for the 929MHz and 931MHz paging service auction calls for a Form 175 filing deadline of January 20. Upfront payments are due February 7. Orders for remote bidding software must be placed by February 11. A mock auction will be held on February 22, followed by the real thing on February 24.

Radio Frequency Systems reorganizes

Radio Frequency Systems is consolidating two formerly separate divisions into one operation.

The new company merges, on a global basis, the product lines of the former RFS and Celwave groups. It has manufacturing, distribution, sales and service operations in Europe, North America, South America, Australia and China.

For North and Latin American customers, this change means combining Cablewave and Celwave product lines into one division to be known as RFS America, RFS America, with headquarters in Meriden, CT, will be led by Richard Tallon, previously president of Celwave. RFS America will be responsible for markets in the United States, Canada, Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean and northern South America.

Other regional divisions of the new global company will be located in Australia, Brazil, Germany and China.

George Gigas, previously president of Cablewave, will take up the global Radio Frequency systems corporate function of technical director.

## AMTEX offers new directions for SMR operators

AMTEX 99, held in conjunction with IMTEX, featured 17 exhibitors and about 100 registered attendees. The conference and exhibition was held Nov. 15-16 at the Hilton in the Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, FL.

Sessions throughout AMTEX focused on new revenue opportunities for dealers and operators. Randy Wilgis, vice president of dealer and VAR markets for TESSCO, presented the first session. "Over the past year, I've talked to a lot of you, and the No.1 thing you're concerned about is where your business is

going in the next few years," Wilgis said. He suggested that SMRs offer integrated solutions that might include LAN, video and Internet service as well as traditional voice.

Steve Virostek, formerly vice president of messaging and dispatch for Strategis Group, presented the "2000 State of SMR & Digital Mobile Radio Market Report" in the closing session, concluding that wireless carriers are readdressing the business market for voice and data services, with third-generation technology looming on the horizon.NC



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# Go to www.mrtmag.com for more land mobile radio news

Find the stories behind these headlines at www.mrtmag.com/editorial/news.htm:

### Project 25 approves TETRA standard for private mobile radio

Project 25 has approved the TETRA standard as a Phase II option for future public safety applications in the United States.

#### International delegates gather in Amsterdam for second TETRA World Congress

TETRA event attracts record attendance for 2nd World Congress.

#### IMTA announces name change, expands mission

Recently renamed IWTA, the association embraces new areas of business wireless.

#### ComSpace chooses Hitachi as global OEM DC/MA radio supplier

ComSpace signs Memorandum of Understanding with Hitachi Denshi.

#### Baltimore launches fully digital communications systems

City officials and Motorola representatives tour city's new communications center and 800MHz Astro system.

#### Colorado begins Phase II of statewide digital upgrade

Next phase will enhance communications for public safety agencies in Denver, its suburbs and the metropolitan areas of Douglas and Jefferson Counties.

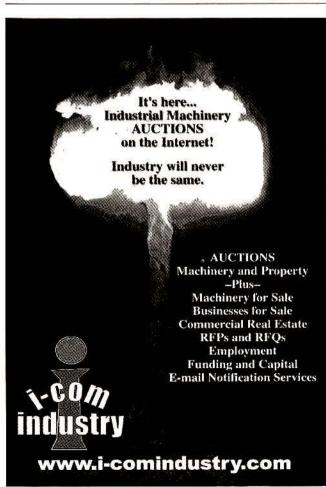
#### Clermont County initiates construction of \$10.6 million Motorola system

Countywide system includes an 800MHz Astro Smartzone trunked two-way radio system, a Private Datatac wireless data system and an alphanumeric paging system.

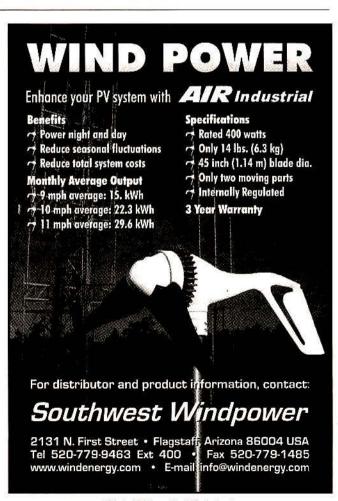
#### FCC diverts paging control channels for San Mateo public safety system

"San Mateo will now be able to build a first-class public safety system," said Art McDole. "The FCC has recognized the edicts of the Communications Act and Congress and placed the priority of public safety first."

Also, read the entire transcript from senior Motorola executive Robert W. Galvin's presentation at the ITA conference held in October.







Circle (30) on Fast Fact Card

# **Headsets**

# Cordless headset works with any phone

Hello Direct's Cordless XLT features the Hello Direct-developed Learnit smart chip technology, which makes it simple to set up. It does not require manual configuration and is guaranteed to work with any analog or digital phone on the market. The headset

weighs six ounces, including either the standard four-hour or an optional nine-hour battery. The Readiline remote answering accessory is fully compatible, allowing users to answer calls without returning to their desks to lift their handsets. The headset operates at the

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900MHz frequency.

# Headsets offer noise-canceling microphone

Sigtronics' SE-48 and SE-8 headsets are noise-attenuation headsets with flex boom-mounted noise-canceling microphones. The SE-8 headset can be used with or without helmets. A portable radio adapter connects between the headset and a portable radio and allows two-way radio communications via the headset. The adapter consists of a belt clip box, which contains a radio push-to-talk switch, a standard headset jack, a portable radio interface cable and interface electronics.

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## Headsets support car racing apps

The Cleartrak headset from Otto Communications was originally designed for car racing applications. It offers durable, heavy-duty construction to withstand harsh elements. It also features high-clarity sound from the firstsystems check to after the final lap. It provides racing pit crews, driving teams and racetrack management reliable, consistent communications for the entire race day. The headsets feature a certified

noise reduction rating of 24dB, extreme noise-cancellation and an electret boom microphone with windscreen. It has a behind-the-head style and comfortable, clothcovered ear seals. It also offers a flexible coil cord.

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# UHF radio, transmitter integrates into headset

The TC917 from CeoTronics is a UHF radio transmitter and receiver inte-

grated into a headset. The headset can be operated on one frequency or on two frequencies with 10-channel capability between 433MHz and 470MHz. It can also be programmed to be used with users' existing frequencies and systems.

The transmitter is activated manually by a push-to-talk button or by voice (vox). The wearer has total hands-free communication. Different versions are available; e.g., with additional ASR (ambient sound reception), with a helmet at-

> tachment, as a one-way communications system with one transmitter and several receivers, as a lightweight headset with external transceiver unit or in connection with interfaces to cable bound intercom systems. An intrinsi-

cally safe version for use in areas with explosion hazard is available.

Circle (354) on Fast Fact Card

# Headset improves intelligibility of incoming calls

The Noisebuster cellular headset from Noise Cancellation Technologies can improve the clarity and intel-



ligibility of received communications. The product features active noise cancellation technology, which electronically reduces ambient lowfrequency background noise so

that the user can hear an incoming call more clearly. The headset features active noise reduction (ANR),

which is the electronic coupling of a noise wave with its exact mirror image to cancel the noise. A microphone in the headset's earpiece senses background noise at the user's ear. That information is sent to an electronic controller where an "anti-noise" wave is generated and coupled with the offensive noise to cancel it. The headset is designed for comfortable extended wear and is foldable for easy storage. It features a fully adjustable headband for fit and comfort; a soft leatherette, replaceable ear cushion; and a flexible, swiveling boom for correct positioning.

Circle (355) on Fast Fact Card

## Headset suits active environments

The ParMar-Low on-ear headset. model HD-PWH6100, from TwitCo **Distributing**, is lightweight and lowprofile. The headset does not interfere with any type of headgear, yet is secure enough to use in active environments such as SWAT and searchand-rescue operations. The headset is shipped with small, medium and

large ear molds. It is appropriate for those who require additional stabilin active environments.

Circle (356) on Fast Fact Card



# Headset completes swimmer's kit



The Occasional Swimmer's Kit from Television Equipment Associates consists of a radio container, a push-to-talk switch and a headset. The

kit is designed for rescue, lifeguard, boating and special operations users who require waterproof radio communications. Both the radio and headset will be protected from saltwater to a depth of 66 feet. The headset consists of an earphone enclosed in a nylon housing and a flexible boom arm dynamic microphone. It will not fall off in white water as it is held on the user by an elastic strap with a touch fastener. The headset has a slim profile for compatibility with helmets.

Circle (357) on Fast Fact Card



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### READERS' CHOICE

Of the new products in the May 1999 issue, this one generated the biggest reader response. For more information on this product, circle the corresponding Fast Fact Card number on the card found in the back of this issue, and mail the card to us.

### Portables offer safe versions



The compact, rugged VX-400 series of land mobile portables from Vertex Radio Communications is available in VHF A, 134MHz-169MHz; C, 148MHz-174MHz; and UHF, A, 400MHz-430MHz; D, 450MHz-485MHz; F, 485MHz-512MHz. The portables meet MIL-STD 810 C/D/E ratings and are available in intrinsically safe versions. VHF and UHF versions feature a full 5W RF power output rating with lowpower level settings of 2.5W, 1W and 0.1W. DCS/CTCSS is programmable by channel as well as by 12.5kHz and

25kHz channel spacing. The portables are capable of 16 channels (8 + 8) and offer several scan modes.

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## Software extends radio system

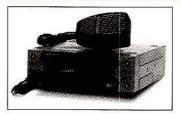
Catalyst Communications Technologies' product for secondary dispatch, called Network Access Radio, extends an existing twoway radio system by allowing office workers to talk to



field radios via a multitasking PC. The intuitive graphical user interface makes radio communications simple for the casual user. Circuit costs can be reduced because voice is routed over a LAN or WAN using voice over IP for a wide-area dispatch system and distributed in-building coverage. Multiple-office PC users can monitor the same talk group or channel. Each office PC can monitor multiple geographic regions or talk groups or channels. The product can reduce system downtime and technician support time when used to place test calls from a central location.

Circle (401) on Fast Fact Card

# Mobile radio features DC/MA tech



The Odyssey series of radios mobile from ComSpace features DC/MA technology, which offers as much as an eight times increase in capacity over traditional 25kHz analog FM systems. This technology is a

combination of QAM, FDMA, TDMA and TDD, giving the user digital technology that meets all FCC refarming mandates, while providing a one-channel-at-a-time migration. The radio features LTR trunking and 32 systems with 250 groups per system. It has a two-line vacuum fluorescent display with 20 characters per line and standard scrolling capability. Direct frequency assignment adds channels without reprogramming radios. The "system busy" queuing offers tone and display notification of available channels. There is an AMBE+ vocoder from DVSI included.

Circle (402) on Fast Fact Card

## CAD program enhances efficiency

HTE has launched a Microsoft Windows NT-based computer-aided dispatch application called CAD V for police, fire and emergency medical services. The product can work independently or as part of HTE's complete public safety suite. The product can reduce dispatcher workload and enhance communications center efficiency by integrating mobile data computers, E9-1-1, state and federal interfaces, and alarm panels. It also provides dispatchers the flexibility to control all law enforcement, fire and EMS vehicles from one computer screen or multiple displays. CAD V reduces dependency on one central computer by using client-server processing to distribute workload. Without using radios, officers can obtain an array of data in their vehicles. The integrated mobile data terminal/laptop computer capability enables them to run inquiries, receive copies of dispatch/location information and update their status.

Circle (403) on Fast Fact Card

# Fire alert system reduces stress

First-in from Westnet is a fire station alert and monitor system that can reduce response time and lower stress levels on fire department employees. The system is activated by CAD, radio or phone-line input. This eight-zone system separates the dormitory environment of a multicompany station into



operating zones based on assignment, allowing for selective alarming. It is compatible with all current alarm methods and can be adapted to new technology.

> Circle (404) on Fast Fact Card

## **Battery replaces Motorola XTS**

W&W Manufacturing has added the replacement battery for the Motorola XTS 3000 to its product line. XTS batteries

are available in the following capacities: WC-061H-8294A, NiCD, 7.5V at 1,700mAh; HC-061HM-8929AM, NiMH, 7.5V at 2,000mAh; HC-061H(S)M-8299A(S)M, NiMH, 7.5V at 2,700mAh;



061H(S)(S)M-8922A(S)(S)M, NiMH, 7.5V at 4,000mAh. Batteries and battery eliminators are also available.

Circle (405) on Fast Fact Card

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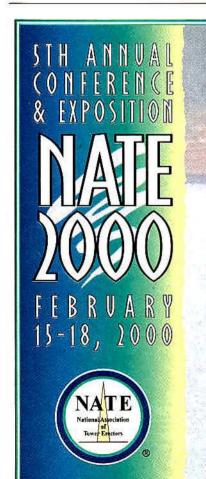
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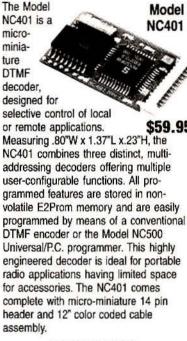
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# **Antenna offers** system flexibility

TX RX Products' broadband collinear array base station antenna offers system flexibility and pattern control in a lightweight, compact structure. A true corporate-feed design, this omnidirectional antenna has been granted two patents. One model covers the entire 450MHz-512MHz band and is available with 0°, 3° and 6° downtilt, as well as with 7/16 DIN or N-type connectors. This antenna is rated for 1,000W of continuous power with a 7/16 DIN type connector or 500W of continuous power with the Ntype connector. The solid core

construction provides for a rated wind velocity of 150mph with a maximum tip deflection of 5°.

Circle (407) on Fast Fact Card

# Phone console connects 210 lines

The Positron IAP Plus is a fully integrated 9-1-1 telephone console with programmable feature keys that allow access to emergency and telephone lines, index and speed dials and control functions. A single cable connects the console to the backroom equipment for as many as 210 lines. The emergency call queue places only incoming emergency calls in a queue and allows a call-taker to answer them in the order they were received. The abandoned call indicator alerts the call-taker to abandoned calls prior to answering. The single-button redial of a disconnected caller is made possible through the rering abandoned caller option.

Circle (406) on Fast Fact Card

# Replacement battery housed in slim case The JB-7143 from JBro Batteries is that match the original ma

a 7.5V, 1,200mAh NiCd battery. The original JB-7134 is now available with the same components, but it is housed in a slim plastic case with contoured edges

that match the original manufacturer version. The battery is a replacement power source for the Motorola MT2000, HT1000 and the MTX8000 radios.

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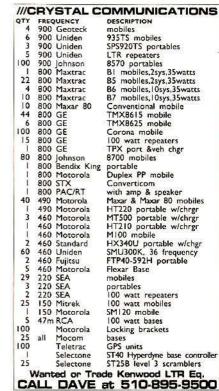
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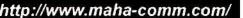
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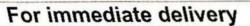
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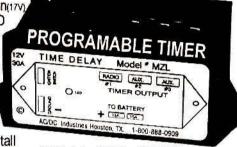
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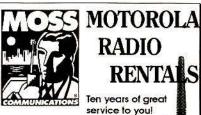
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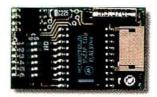
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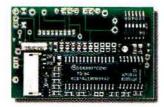
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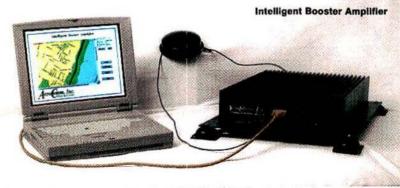
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